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Pomezia (IT). **TRABONI, Cinzia** [IT/IT]; Via Pontina KM. 30, 600, I-00040 Pomezia (IT).

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(74) Common Representative: **MERCK & CO., INC.**; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907 (US).

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(71) Applicants (*for all designated States except US*): **MERCK & CO., INC.** [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907 (US). **ISTITUTO DI RICERCHE DI BIOLOGIA MOLECOLARE P. ANGELETTI SPA.** [IT/IT]; Via Pontina KM. 30, 600, I-00040 Pomezia (IT).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **LUDMERER, Steven, W.** [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907 (US). **GRAHAM, Donald, J.** [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907 (US). **LAFEMINA, Robert, L.** [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907 (US). **FLORES, Osvaldo, A.** [CL/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907 (US). **PIZZUTI, Maura** [IT/IT]; Via Pontina KM. 30, 600, I-00040

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(54) Title: HCV REPLICONS CONTAINING NS5B FROM GENOTYPE 2B

SMSYZ¹WTGALITPCGPEEEKLPX¹PLSNSLX²RFHNKVYSTTSRSASLRAKKVTFDRVQV
LDAHYDSVLQDVKRAASKVSARLLTVEEACALTPPHSAKSRYGFGAKEVRSLSRRAVNHIR
SVWEDLLEDQHTPIDTTIMAKNEVFCIDPTKGGKKPARLIVYPDLGVRVCEKMALYDIAQK
LPKAIMGPSYGFQYSPAERVDFLLKAWGSKKDPMGFSYDTRCFDSTVTERDIRTEESIYQA
CSLPQEARTVIHSLTERLYVGGPMTNSKGQSCGYRRCRASGVFTTSMGNTMTCYIKALAAC
KAAGIVDPVMLVCGDDLVVISESQGNEEDERNLRAFTEAMTRYSAPPGDLPRPEYDLELIT
SCSSNVSVALDSRGRRRYFLTRDPTTPX³TRAAWETVRHSPVNSWLGNIIQYAPTIWVRMVI
MTHFFSILLAQDTLNQNLNFEMYGAVYSVNPLDLPATIERLHGLEAFSLHTYSPHELSRVA
ATLRKLGAPPLRAWKSRARAVRASLIAQGARAAICGRYLFNWAVKTKLKLTPLPEASRLDL
SGWFTVGAGGGDIYHSVSHARPRLLLLLCLLLLSVGVGIFLLPDR

(57) Abstract: The present invention features methods for enhancing the ability of a genotype 2b NS5B sequence to function in a replicon, for producing replicons containing a functional genotype 2b NS5B, and for using replicons to measure the ability of a compound to affect HCV replication that is sustained with the genotype 2b polymerase. Also featured is a genotype 1b NS4B adaptive mutation. The ability to produce replicons containing a functional genotype 2b NS5B is illustrated by the production of chimeric replicons based on HCV genotype 1b where substantially all the NS5B sequence is replaced with a genotype 2b NS5B.

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